

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /065 W

-----030655 091734Z /43

R 091400Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0649

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2185

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV CH XJ US UK BC

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRC AMBASSADOR

1. SUMMARY. PRC AMBASSADOR CHAO CHENG-YI TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION AFTER EXCHANGING GREETINGS AT UNDP RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 6 FOR UN ASYG FARAH. OUR TALK BEGAN WITH AMBASSADOR CHAO'S QUERY AS TO RESULTS OF SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT WHICH HE FOLLOWED WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT REACTIONS TO ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA, ON WHICH I THEN ASKED FOR HIS REACTION AND WHETHER HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WAS FIRM. THIS EVOKED AMBASSADOR CHAO'S COMMENTS ON ANTICIPATED STABILITY OF NEW PRC LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. VANCE VISIT. AMBASSADOR CHAO PROLONGED OUR USUAL HANDSHAKE TO ASK (THROUGH HIS INTERPRETER) IF I HAD ANY RESULTS OF SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT. I SAID I HAD NO INFORMATION; AMBASSADOR CHAO SAID HE TOO WAS WITHOUT GUIDANCE BUT UNDERSTOOD FROM PRESS REPORTS THERE HAD BEEN NO "NEW DEVELOPMENTS".

3. ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE. HE FOLLOWED UP QUICKLY TO ASK ABOUT REACTIONS TO ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA. I NOTED SUPPORTING STATEMENT ISSUED BY PRES. CONFIDENTIAL

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KHAMA EARLIER THAT DAY AND INDICATIONS THAT THE INITIATIVE WAS FAVORABLY REGARDED, OR AT LEAST UNDER SERIOUS STUDY, BY OTHER FRONTLINE STATES. I NOTED THAT SOME ASPECTS HAD BEEN REJECTED BY PATRIOTIC FRONT AND BY SMITH. I THEN ASKED AMBASSADOR CHAO WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WAS. "WE FAVOR MAJORITY RULE", HE RESPONDED PROMPTLY AND FORCEFULLY. I REPLIED THAT WE WERE TOGETHER

ON THAT POINT.

4. STABILITY OF PRC REGIME. I ASKED IF HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WAS FIRM. AMBASSADOR CHAO BECAME SOMEWHAT ANIMATED IN REPLYING: "UNDER CHAIRMAN HUA THERE WILL BE STABILITY." THIS RESULTS FROM DEFEAT OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A "COLLECTIVE GROUP OF THREE OR FOUR LEADERS" UNDER HUA WHO ASSURE SUPPORT FOR HIM. AMBASSADOR CHAO REITERATED AT LEAST TWICE: "ONE COULD HAVE CONFIDENCE IN STABILITY UNDER CHAIRMAN HUA WHICH WOULD PERMIT RECOVERY FROM EFFECTS OF THE GANG OF FOUR" AND CONCENTRATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5. OUR CONVERSATION WHICH (WITH INTERPRETATION) TOOK SOME 20 MINUTES, CONCLUDED WITH EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN RENEWING DISCUSSION AT FUTURE DATE.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.  
NORLAND

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDEV, CH, XJ, US, UK, BC, (CHAO CHENG-YI)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009